



PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

Story and Art by
Satoru Noda

3

GOLDEN KAMUY

3



Story and Art by **Satoru Noda**



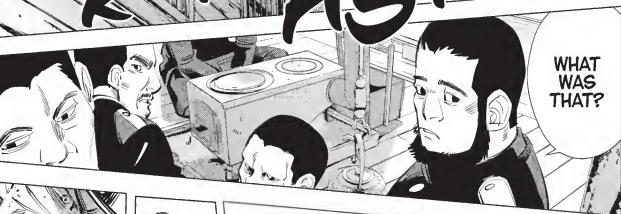
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Story and Art by **Satoru Noda**

K RASH



Chapter 18:
Rescue Operation



Chapter 18:
Rescue Operation



THE
ENTRANCE
IS
GUARDED
BY
SOLDIERS
ALL NIGHT
LONG.

APPAR-
ENTLY
THAT
BUILDING
USED
TO BE A
STORE,
SO THE
WINDOWS
ARE
BARRED
...

THERE
ARE
ABOUT 30
SOLDIERS
IN THERE.

THAT'S
THE 7TH
DIVISION
BARRACKS.



HE
NEVER
GIVES
IN TO
FEAR OF
DEATH...

...AND
THAT'S
WHAT
MAKES HIM
STRONG.

SUGIMOTO
IS
DEFINITELY
STILL ALIVE.

HE WON'T
DIE THAT
EASILY.

THOSE
GUYS
ARE FAR
TOO
DANGEROUS
TO
CONFRONT...

AND
EVEN IF
WE MAKE
IT IN, IT
MIGHT BE
TOO LATE.

EVEN
IMMORTAL
SUGIMOTO
MAY HAVE
RUN OUT
OF LUCK
THIS
TIME.



**THAT'S
WHY HE'S
CALLED
IMMORTAL
SUGIMOTO!**

WITH
DEATH
STARING
THEM IN
THE FACE,
THEY'D BE
PARALYZED
WITH FEAR.

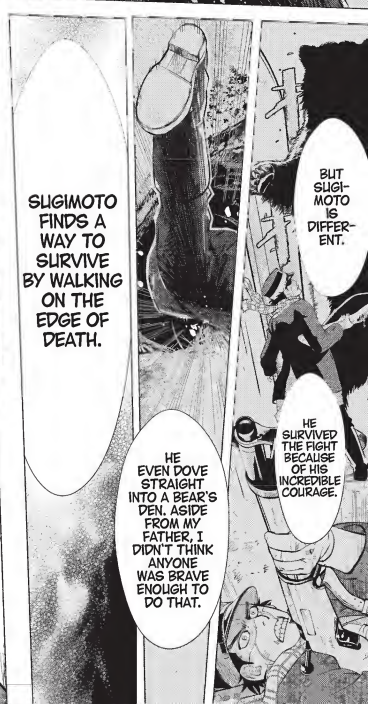
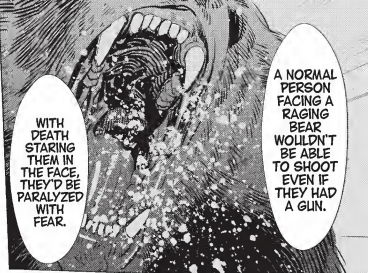
A NORMAL
PERSON
FACING A
RAGING
BEAR
WOULDN'T
BE ABLE
TO SHOOT
EVEN IF
THEY HAD
A GUN.

**SUGIMOTO
FINDS A
WAY TO
SURVIVE
BY WALKING
ON THE
EDGE OF
DEATH.**

HE
EVEN DOVE
STRAIGHT
INTO A BEAR'S
DEN. ASIDE
FROM MY
FATHER, I
DIDN'T THINK
ANYONE
WAS BRAVE
ENOUGH TO
DO THAT.

BUT
SUGI-
MOTO
IS DIFFER-
ENT.

HE
SURVIVED
THE FIGHT
BECAUSE
OF HIS
INCREDIBLE
COURAGE.





OUR
ORDERS
ARE TO
KEEP HIM
ALIVE!

HEY,
KNOCK
IT OFF!



I'LL CHOP
YOU UP AND
FEED YOU TO
THE PIGS!



GOOD THING
YOUR BUDDIES
GOT HERE IN
TIME, I'D'VE PUT
BOTH OF YOU
IN THE SAME
GRAVE!



IF I
HADN'T,
THOSE
LUNATICS
WOULD'VE
CUT
OFF MY
FINGERS!

I MADE A
LOT OF
NOISE ON
PURPOSE
SO YOU'D
HEAR IT
AND COME
RUNNING
...

YOU GUYS
SURE TOOK
YOUR
SWEET TIME
GETTING IN
HERE...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HE DID ALL
THAT WITH
HIS HANDS
AND FEET
TIED!

GRUMBLE

GRUMBLE



YES,
SIR!

DON'T LET
THOSE
TWIN
ANYWHERE
NEAR
SUGIMOTO.



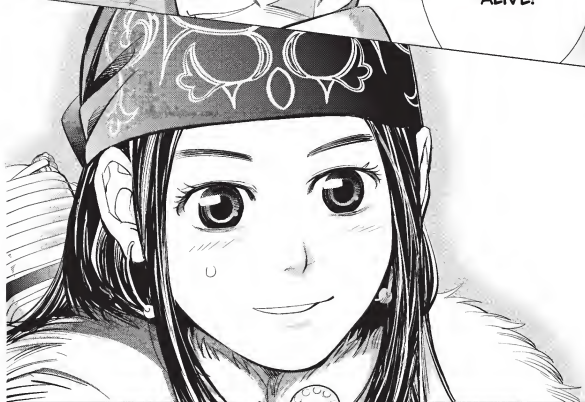


HE'S ONE
TOUGH
SONOFA-
BITCH.

HUH?



SLIGIMOTO...
HE'S STILL
ALIVE!



IF I BEND
ONE, I
SHOULD BE
ABLE TO
DISLOCATE
MY JOINTS
AND SLIP
IN.

THOSE
BARS
ARE
PRETTY
OLD
AND
RUSTY...



BUT WHO
KNOWS HOW
LONG HE
CAN KEEP
HIS MOUTH
SHUT ABOUT
THE HIDING
PLACE?

IF THEY
LOCKED HIM
UP, THAT
MUST MEAN
THAT HE
STASHED
THE SKINS
SOMEWHERE
...

IT'S A DEAL.
I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
THE GOLD
ANYWAY...

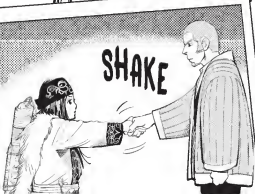
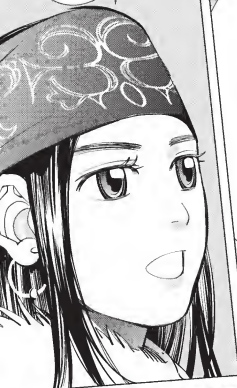
I LOVE
GAMBLING...

SO I'M
BETTING
IT ALL
ON YOU
TWO.

WHEN WE
FIND IT, YOU
CAN SPLIT
IT WITH
SUGIMOTO.

I'LL HELP
YOU SAVE
SUGIMOTO...

IN
RETURN,
I WANT
A SHARE
OF THE
GOLD!



AFTER I
SNEAK IN
AND FREE
SUGIMOTO...

...I'LL
SIGNAL
YOU.

WE TIE
A LONG
ROPE TO
THE FOUR
CORNERS
OF
THOSE
METAL
BARS
ON THE
WINDOW.

HERE'S
THE
PLAN.

THERE'S A STABLE
OUTSIDE THE BARRACKS,
SO YOU'LL HAVE TO TIE
A ROPE TO ONE OF THE
HORSES IN ADVANCE.
WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL,
YOU MAKE IT RUN AND
PULL ON THE ROPE.

IF I LATHER
UP MY
BODY, IT'LL
BE EASIER
TO SLIP
THROUGH
THE BARS.

BY THE
WAY,
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
SOAP?

NOPE.

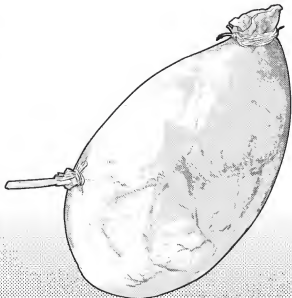
WE'LL
MAKE A
SWIFT
ESCAPE
AS THE
BARS
ARE
TORN
OFF.

A
HORSE IS
HEAVIER,
SO IT'S
MORE
LIKELY TO
PULL THE
BARS
OUT.

CAN'T WE
USE RETAR
INSTEAD
OF A
HORSE?

PISE

A POUCH MADE FROM THE STOMACH OF A BEAR. IT IS USED TO STORE WATER OR ANIMAL OILS.



BUT I DO HAVE SOME BEAR GREASE THAT I USE FOR COOKING.



RATTLE

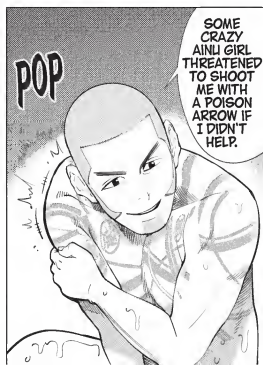


IF I DON'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING, THEY'LL KILL ME FOR SURE NEXT TIME.

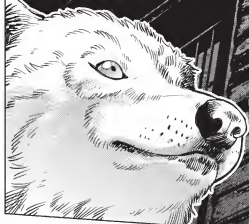
BUT THOSE TWINS WILL BE BACK FOR SURE.

THAT WOUND IN MY CHEST WASN'T TOO DEEP BECAUSE IT WAS BLOCKED BY MY RIBS.









THE
HORSES
HAVE
NOTICED
US.

SHOOT!
THEY'VE
CAUGHT
REAR'S
SCENT.

W
H
R
E
E
N

FORGET IT!
HURRY THE
HELL UP AND
GET THESE
CLIFFS OFF
ME!

W
H
R
E
E

OH, SHIT.
SOUNDS LIKE
WE MIGHT
HAVE A
PROBLEM.

W
H
R
E
E
N



W
H
R
E
E

HORSE
THIEVES
?

STRAY
DOGS, I
THINK.
WANNA
EAT
EM?



K
R
I
!



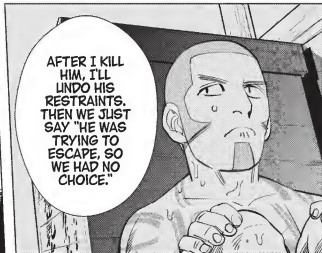
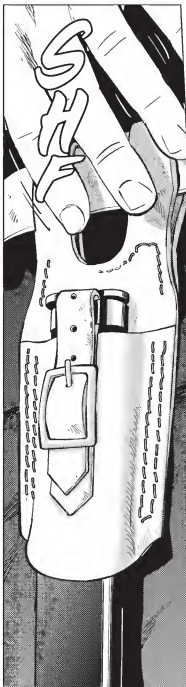
K
C
H
A
K



KOHEI, WAIT
OUTSIDE AND
MAKE SURE
NOBODY
COMES IN.



HUH?



AFTER I KILL
HIM, I'LL
LINDO HIS
RESTRAINTS.
THEN WE JUST
SAY "HE WAS
TRYING TO
ESCAPE, SO
WE HAD NO
CHOICE."

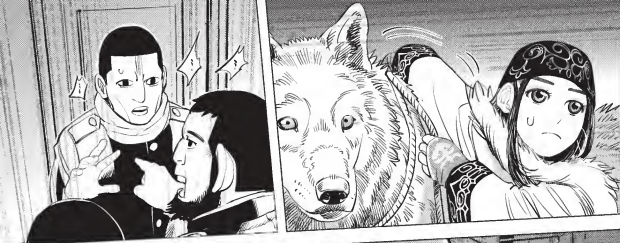


USE
YOUR
BAYONET
INSTEAD.

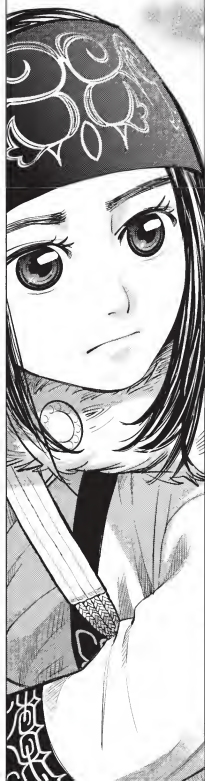
IF
YOU
SHOOT HIM,
EVERYONE
WILL COME
BEFORE
YOU CAN
CUT HIM
LOOSE...

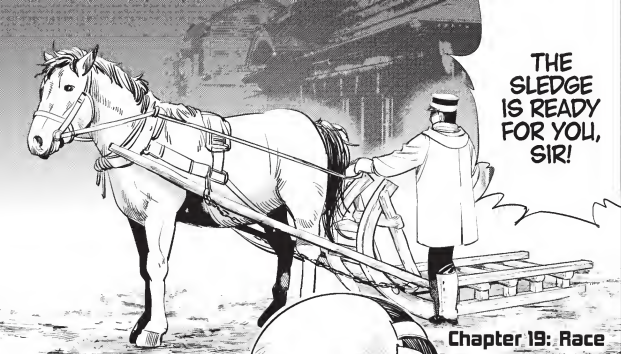
WAIT,
YOHEI.
DON'T USE
YOUR GUN.
HAND IT
OVER...











THE
SLEDGE
IS READY
FOR YOU,
SIR!

Chapter 19: Race

JUST GET
THEM TO
TREAT
SUGIMOTO!

I DON'T
CARE IF YOU
HAVE TO
WAKE THE
DOCTORS
AT
GUNPOINT...

TAKE HIM
TO THE
BEST
HOSPITAL
IN OTARU!

MAKE
SURE
TO FIND
OUT THE
HIDING
PLACE
BEFORE
HE DIES...
GOT IT?!

I'LL
FOLLOW
ON MY
HORSE,
SO KEEP
TALKING
TO HIM...

I WON'T DIE,
GODDAMMIT!

IF YOU
FEEL
LIKE
YOU'RE
ABOUT
TO SLIP
UNDER...

SO WE
NEED YOU
TO HOLD
UP YOUR
END OF
THE
BARGAIN
...

WE'LL
MAKE
EVERY
EFFORT
TO SAVE
YOU.

...YOU
NEED TO
TELL US
WHERE
THE SKINS
ARE,
OKAY?

SIR!



Chapter 19: Race

SOMETHING
SEEMS
TO HAVE
SPOOKED THE
HORSES, AND
WE'RE HAVING
TROUBLE
GETTING THEM
SADDLED!

IS MY
HORSE
READY
YET?

THERE'S
SOME-
THING
STRANGE
ABOUT
THIS
CORPSE
...

WERE YOU
REALLY ABLE
TO WOUND
SUGIMOTO WITH
THIS HAND?
HOW?

HIS LEFT
HAND IS
FINE... SO
WHY DIDN'T
HE USE
THIS HAND
INSTEAD?

THIS IS A
DEFENSIVE
WOUND. HE
WOULD'VE
HAD TROUBLE
HOLDING THE
BAYONET WITH
A CUT LIKE
THIS.

THERE'S
A DEEP
WOUND ON
THE RIGHT
HAND...

SNIF
SNIF

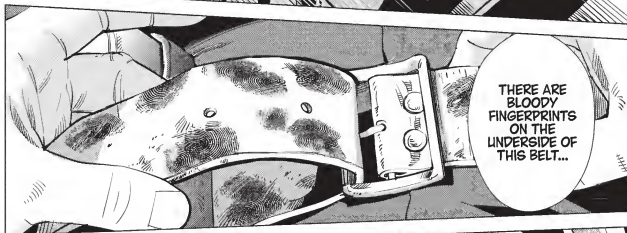
HSS
HSS



HMM?



OR DID
SUGIMOTO
PUT THIS
BAYONET
IN YOUR
HAND?



THERE ARE
BLOODY
FINGERPRINTS
ON THE
UNDERSIDE OF
THIS BELT...



WHY DID
YOU REDO
HIS BELT
AFTER YOU
KILLED HIM,
SUGIMOTO?

DRIP

HEY, STAY
DOWN!
YOU'LL LOSE
TOO MUCH
BLOOD IF
YOU DON'T
LIE DOWN!

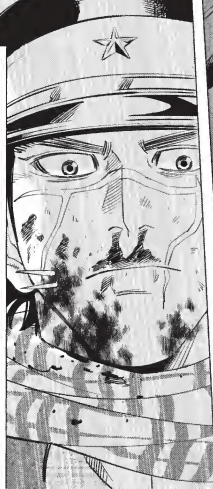
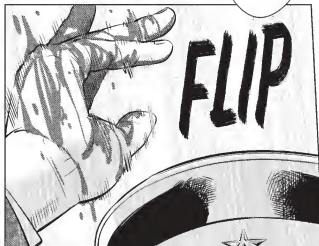
WHUP

HEY, DID
SOMEONE
FALL OFF?

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL

SHHE

POP
POP
POP
POP

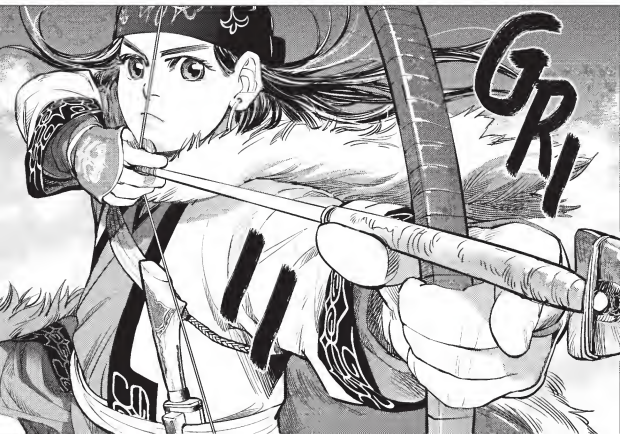


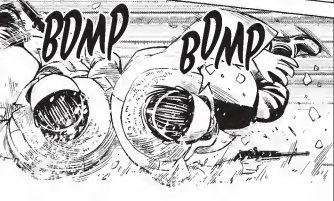
GET
GOING,
DAMMIT!

GO! GO
FASTER!















WHAT ON EARTH DID THIS?



NO RETAR, YOU CAN'T EAT THIS.

THE POISON USED FOR AINU ARROWS COLLECTS AROUND THE ENTRY WOUND AFTER THE ANIMAL'S DEATH. IF AN AREA ABOUT THE SIZE OF A FIST IS CUT AWAY, THE REST OF THE ANIMAL'S MEAT IS STILL EDIBLE.





SO THAT'S
WHY I
COULDN'T
FIND IT
ANYWHERE...

CREEPY
BASTARD.

I'M
SWEATING
THANKS
TO THIS.

SO
YES,
IT'S
QUITE
HOT.

WHOA!
WHOA,
THERE!

STOP!
I SAID
STOP!

ASIRPA.

AND YOU
HAD TO
SAVE ME
IN THE
END.

I TRIED
TO DO
IT ALL
ON MY
OWN...

I AM SO
PATHETIC.

STEP



TH

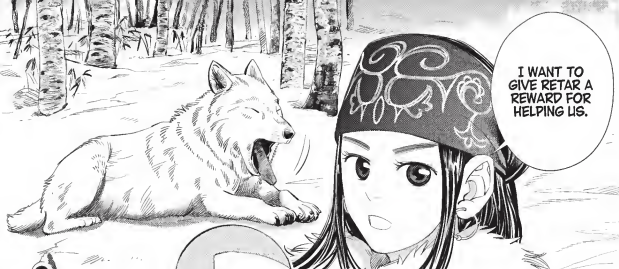
GYAAAAHH!

WAK



**Chapter 20:
Disagreement**







"SAKURA NABE?"
WHAT'S THAT?

IT
WAS SO DAMNED
GOOD.

I HAD
IT ONCE
WHEN
I WAS IN
YOSHI-
WARA, IN
ASAKUSA.

IT'S
PRETTY
POPULAR
IN
TOKYO
RIGHT
NOW.

IT'S
HORSE
MEAT
COOKED
KINDA LIKE
SUKIYAKI...



LET ME
GO SEE
IF THERE
ARE ANY
NEARBY
FARMS
THAT CAN
SHARE SOME!



YOU'VE
NEVER HAD
SUKIYAKI?
IT'S SOOO
GOOD!

SU...
SUKIYAKI?
IS THAT
TASTY
TOO?

G
U
L
P

ANYWAY,
IF WE'RE
MAKING
SAKURA
NABE, WE
NEED SOME
EGGS.



I SEE...
LET'S
NOT TAKE
THE RISK,
THEN.

THE
HUNTER
GOT TO THE
TOWN AHEAD
OF THE THIEF,
AND GAVE THE
FUR TRADERS
DETAILS ON
WHAT THE
ELTS LOOKED
LIKE...

ONCE
THERE
WAS A
HUNTER WHO
WAS ROBBED
OF ALL HIS
BELTS BY
A THIEF...

NO, WE
WON'T
KEEP
THE SKIN.

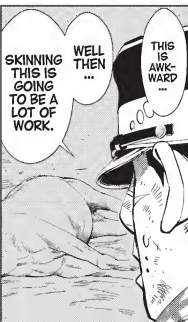
WHEN THE
THIEF CAME
TO SELL
THEM, HE
WAS
ARRESTED
ON THE
SPOT.



SKINNING
THIS IS
GOING TO
BE A LOT
OF WORK.

WELL
THEN
...

THIS
IS AWK-
WARD
...





ASIRPA...

THIS
IS WHAT WE
HAVE TO
EXPECT IF
WE'RE GOING
AFTER THE
GOLD...

WE
COULD BE
CAPTURED,
TORTURED
OR EVEN
KILLED.



IT'S
STILL
SWOL-
LEN...

THEY
BEAT YOU
UP REALLY
BAD...

SUGI-
MOTO,
YOUR
FACE...

YOU
SHOULD
GO GET
SOME
REST.



NO...
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEANT...

SO
YOU'RE
SAYING
I'M A
BURDEN.



IF
SOMETHING
HAPPENS
TO YOU,
ASIRPA...

I... I DON'T
KNOW HOW I
COULD EVER
FACE YOUR
GRANDMA OR
THE PEOPLE OF
YOUR VILLAGE.



I'VE HEARD
THAT A
COMPRESS
OF RAW
HORSE MEAT
CAN HELP
TO REDUCE
SWELLING
AND
BLEEDING.

KEEP IT
PRESSED
AGAINST
YOUR
FACE.

WHAT
?!



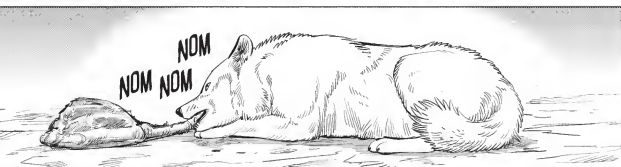
I MADE THAT
CHOICE, SO I
DECIDED TO
COOPERATE.

SUGIMOTO,
I'VE DECIDED
THAT WORKING
TOGETHER
WOULD HELP
BOTH OF US
WITH OUR
GOALS...

I'M
PREPARED
FOR THE
WORST.

I'VE
ALREADY
LOST MY
FATHER.

I...







THIS IS
REALLY
GOOD!

HAMPH
HUMPH
...



AND DIG
IN!

DIP THE
MEAT
IN THE
EGG...



LIKE
THIS?

MAKE SURE
YOU BEAT
THE EGGS!

OH,
ASIRPA!



DID YOU
PUT
OSOMA
IN THIS
STUFF?

SUGIMOTO?
IS HE
SERIOUS?



THE MISO
TASTES
GREAT IN
THIS!

WE ADDED
JUST THE
RIGHT
AMOUNT
OF MISO,
TOO!

THIS LEAN
HORSE MEAT
GOES SO
WELL WITH
THE RICH
FLAVOR OF
THE MISO...

AHH! THIS
IS SO
GOOD!

FLINCH

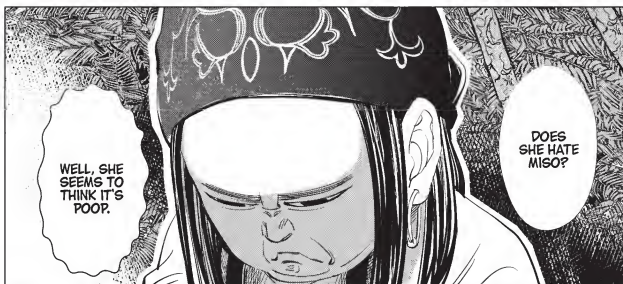


...MISO IS
ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY
IN SAKURA
NABE!

ASIRPA...
THE TRUTH
IS...



HUH?
WHAT'S
"OSOMA"?



WELL, SHE
SEEMS TO
THINK IT'S
POOP.

DOES
SHE HATE
MISO?



I'LL MAKE
IT AGAIN
WITHOUT
ANY MISO
IN IT.

KLNK

I'M
SORRY,
ASIRPA.

THERE'S
STILL
PLENTY OF
MEAT.



GOTTA
BE THE
CULTURAL
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
AINU AND
JAPANESE
...

IT'S
INTER-
ESTING
TO SEE THE
THINGS
WE DON'T
AGREE ON.

POOP?









MORE
OSOMA,
PLEASE!



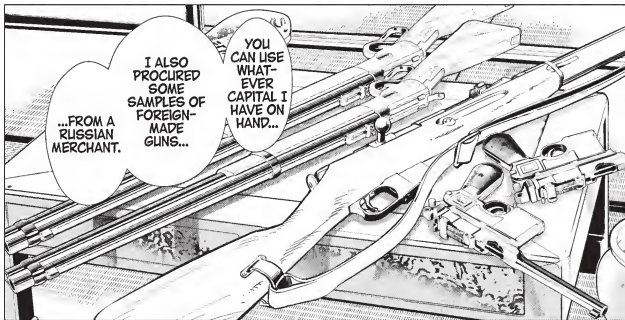
LIKE I
SAID,
IT'S NOT
POOP...





THIS HOUSE
ONCE
BELONGED TO MY
DECEASED
RELA-
TIVES...

PLEASE
USE IT
AS YOU
SEE FIT.



...FROM A
RUSSIAN
MERCHANT.

I ALSO
PROCURED
SOME
SAMPLES OF
FOREIGN-
MADE
GUNS...

YOU
CAN USE
WHAT-
EVER
CAPITAL I
HAVE ON
HAND...



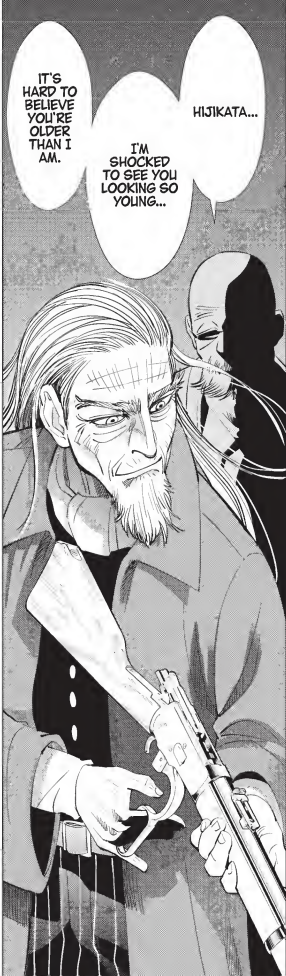
IT'S
PLENTY.
YOU
HAVE MY
THANKS.

THAT'S
ABOUT
ALL I
CAN DO
FOR
YOU.



I'M TOO OLD NOW TO GO RUNNING OFF WITH YOU.

IF ONLY MY BODY WERE A LITTLE MORE SPRY...



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'RE OLDER THAN I AM.

HIJIKATA...

I'M SHOCKED TO SEE YOU LOOKING SO YOUNG...



HAH! YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT?

EH, NAGAKURA?

YOU'VE BEEN PARTICULAR ABOUT THE SHINSENGUMI FOR ALL THESE YEARS... THERE'S NO WAY YOU AREN'T BURNING FOR THIS CHANCE.



NAGAKURA?



**NAGAKURA
SHINPACHI?!**

**DON'T TELL
ME THIS OLD
FART... IS THE
MANIHAILED
AS THE BEST
SWORDSMAN
IN THE
SHINSENGUMI?!**



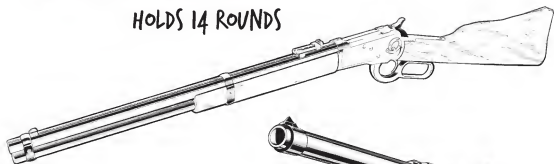
**YOU'RE
AFTER
MORE THAN
JUST THE
GOLD,
AREN'T
YOU?**



**YOU
TWO...**

**HOLD ON,
YOU OLD
SHINSEN-
GUMI
GEEZERS...**

WINCHESTER MODEL 1892 RIFLE
HOLDS 14 ROUNDS



BORCHARDT C-93 PISTOL
HOLDS 8 ROUNDS



Chapter 21: Ghost





WE
RECEIVED
INFO
THAT HE'S
REASSEMBLED
HIS OLD
CREW AND IS
LYING LOW
AROUND THE
OUTSKIRTS
OF OTARU.

HE'S THE
HEAD OF A
BAND OF
THIEVES,
AND WELL
RESPECTED
BY HIS
MEN.

WE'RE GOING
TO MEET A
MAN CALLED
ZENJIRO
SHIBUKAWA.
HE'S NOT
ONE OF THE
TATTOOED
PRISONERS...

BUT HE
WAS
RECENTLY
RELEASED
FROM
KABATO
PRISON.



WELL, THAT'S NOT A GOOD WAY TO START THINGS OFF.

I SENT SOME MESSENGERS EARLIER TODAY, BUT THEY HAVEN'T RETURNED.



SO WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T KILL HIM.

WE CAN CERTAINLY USE ZENJIRO SHIBUKAWA'S TALENT FOR LEADING SUCH A GROUP OF RUFFIANS.



AND YOUR PLAN IS TO RECRUIT HIM AND HIS MEN?

I DON'T THINK HE'D BE TOO HAPPY TO SEE US JUST SHOW UP ON HIS DOORSTEP.



IF THINGS GO SOUTH, WE'LL BE AT A DIS-ADVANTAGE.

IF NAGA-KURA'S INFO IS RIGHT, THERE ARE 12 GUYS IN THAT GANG.

WELL, IT'S JUST YOU, ME AND EIGHT OTHER YOUNG THUGS.



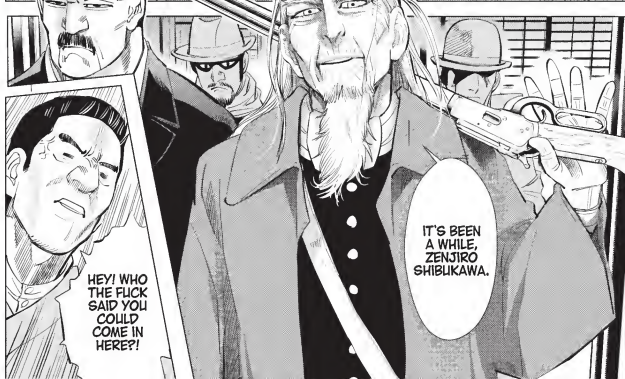
WHAT WINS BATTLES ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE READY TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES FOR YOU.

KACHIK

IT'S NOT THE HEAD COUNT THAT MATTERS.



IF
YOU WANT
TO LIVE, BE
PREPARED
TO DIE.





YOU REALLY
HELPED ME
OUT BACK AT
KABATO.

I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
SINCE THEY
TRANSFERRED
YOU TO
ABASHIRI...



THEY REVEALED AN INTERESTING TIDBIT... ABOUT SOME HIDDEN STASH OF AINU GOLD.



THEY SURE DID. AND ONCE WE HURT THEM A BIT, THEY SPILLED THEIR GLITS.



DID MY MEN STOP BY?



CHOOSE ONE.

EITHER YOU JOIN US, OR WE FIGHT TO THE DEATH.

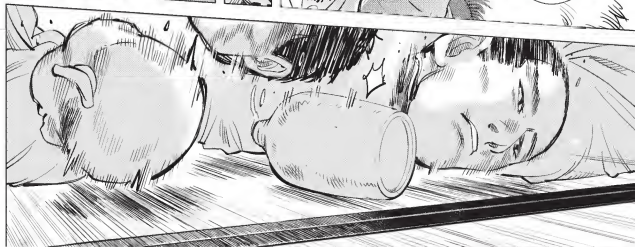


I ALMOST FORGOT. HERE'S SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE YOUR RELEASE.

To



SHOW ME THAT TATTOO OF YOURS.

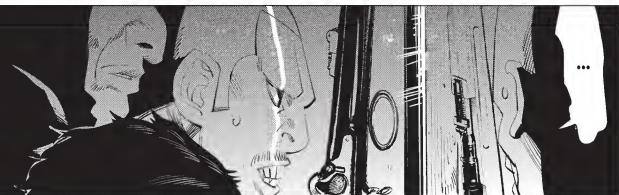




AND TELL
YOUR MEN
HIDING BEHIND
THOSE
SLIDING
DOORS TO
LAY DOWN
THEIR
WEAPONS.



THESE
WERE
YOUR MEN,
RIGHT? YOU
HAD THEM
WAITING
OUTSIDE,
READY TO
AMBUSH
US.



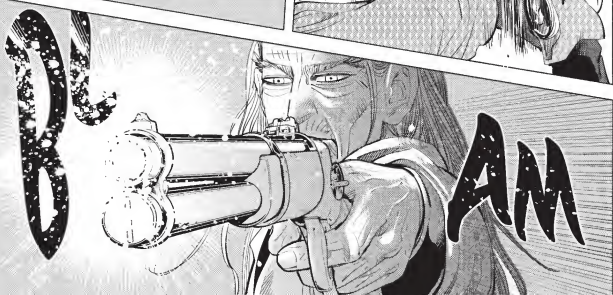
YOU
MAY HAVE
FOOLED
EVERYONE AT
KABATO BY
PRETENDING
TO BE JUST
A QUIET OLD
MAN...

FINE,
YOU
WIN...

BUT I KNEW
YOU WERE A
DANGEROUS
BASTARD
FROM THE
MOMENT I
SAW YOU.







...OF THE
SHINSENGUMI'S
VICE
COMMANDER?!

SO THIS
IS THE
MERCILESS
FACE...

NO ONE
GETS
OUT OF
HERE
ALIVE!

KILL
THEM
ALL!







A close-up of a man's face, showing a thick beard and intense eyes. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of his face.

COULD
IT BE THAT
YOU ARE
SEEKING A
PLACE
TO DIE?



A man with a long beard and hair, wearing a dark jacket, is holding a long rifle. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of his head.

HIJIKATA...



A man with a long beard and hair, wearing a light-colored robe, is standing outdoors. He is looking towards the right. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of his head. The background shows a dark landscape with a small building and trees.

HAH! I
PLAN TO
LIVE FOR
ANOTHER
HUNDRED
YEARS.





THERE
ARE
COUNTLESS
PEOPLE WHO
WANT TO
LIBERATE
THIS LAND
OF EZO.



HEY...
ARE YOU
SERIOUSLY
PLANNING TO
REESTABLISH
THE
SHINSEN-
GUMI?



SORRY,
BUT I'M
ONLY
INTERESTED
IN THE
GOLD.

WHO
WOULD
TAKE YOUR
DREAM OF
TAKING OVER
HOKKAIDO
SERIOUSLY
?



OH? AND
WHERE
MIGHT
THEY BE?



THEY'VE
ALL BEEN
LIVING
HERE FOR
A LONG,
LONG
TIME.



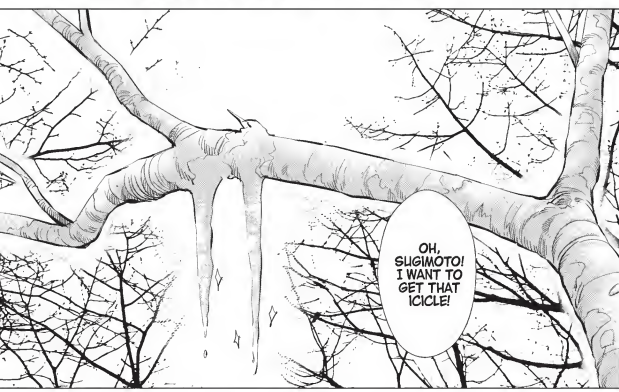


WE
FIGURED
IT WOULD
BE BETTER
IF I
STAYED
AWAY
FROM
THERE
FOR A
WHILE.

SHIRAISHI
WENT TO
TOWN
TO SEE
WHAT'S
GOING
ON...



WHERE'S
THE
EXCREMENT
KING?



OH,
SUGIMOTO!
I WANT TO
GET THAT
ICICLE!

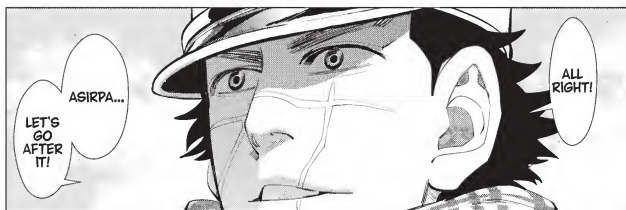
WHEN YOU
GATHER AND
SIMMER
DOWN
MAPLE TREE
SAP, IT
BECOMES
MAPLE
SYRUP.

SNAP

WHEN
THE BRANCH
OF A MAPLE
TREE CRACKS,
THE SAP
SEEPS OUT
AND FREEZES
INTO AN
ICICLE.

TO
EAT
IT.

WHAT
DO YOU
NEED
AN
ICICLE
FOR?





**Chapter 22: The
Legendary Bear Hunter**



I'M
EXHAUST-
ED

WAIT...
HOLD
ON...

HURRY UP,
SUGIMOTO!
WE'LL LOSE
THE DEER!



WE'LL
TAKE A
SHORT
BREAK.

WHAT A
PATHETIC
SISAM*.

*JAPANESE PERSON



YOU
WANT
ME TO
EAT
LEAVES
?

WE CALL
THEM
HUPCA.

THEY'RE
THE
NEEDLES
OF A
SAKHALIN
FIR...

TRY
CHEWING
ON
THESE,
SUGI-
MOTO...



THIS IS
CALLED
MONAKA
(WAFER)
SNOW.

THE SURFACE
OF THE SNOW
IS HARD, BUT
UNDERNEATH,
IT'S SOFT...
MY FEET KEEP
GETTING STUCK,
AND IT'S HARD
TO WALK...

IT'S EASY
FOR YOU,
SINCE YOU'RE
LIGHTER
AND USED TO
WALKING IN
THESE
MOUNTAINS!







IF YOU
CUT
ONE...



LOTS OF
SAP WILL
START
DRIPPING
OUT.

YES!
WATER!

IT'S A
GOOD
SUBSTITUTE
FOR WATER
IF YOU'RE
UP IN THE
MOUNTAINS
AND RUN
OUT OF
RESERVES.



OH,
SUGIMOTO!
LOOK
OVER
THERE!

THAT'S
A HARDY
KIWI
VINE.

THOSE
VINES
ABSORB
A LOT
OF
WATER.



COME
ON,
PLEASE?

ASIRPA?



COME ON,
LET'S
GET GOING.

THEY DIS-
TRIBUTE
THE
WEIGHT
SO I'M NOT
SINKING
DOWN SO
EASILY.

THESE
ARE
NICE!



THESE
VINES
HAVE
OTHER
USES,
TOO.

GLUK

GLUK

THEY'RE
WHAT MY
SNOWSHOES
ARE MADE
FROM...

WHEN
YOU DRY
THE VINES,
THEY
BECOME
INCREDIBLY
LIGHT.



...SO I'LL
MAKE
YOU A
MAKESHIFT
PAIR FOR
NOW.

MAKING
PROPER
ONES
WOULD
TAKE
TOO
LONG...

THEY'RE
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING.



HE MIGHT
COME BACK
TO SEE
WHAT'S
GOING ON.

IF WE
MAKE A
SOUND BY
RUBBING
THIS ROD
AGAINST
THE
BARK...



IT
LOOKS LIKE
THE DEER JUST
DUG UP THE
SNOW AND ATE
THE BAMBOO
GRASS.



IT'S
A DEER RUB.
THE DEER
RUBBED ITS
ANTLERS
AGAINST
THE TREE
TO MARK ITS
TERRITORY.

LOOK,
SUGI-
MOTO
...

AREN'T YOU
USING THE
SUTI A
LITTLE TOO
CASUALLY?



Makanit

THESE
BOOTS ARE
MADE FROM
DEERSKIN,
AND MAKANIT
ARROW
FOOTINGS ARE
MADE FROM
THE SHIN
BONES OF
A DEER.

DEER
ARE AN
ESSENTIAL
PART OF
OUR WAY
OF
LIFE...
WE USE
THEM
FOR
MANY
THINGS.

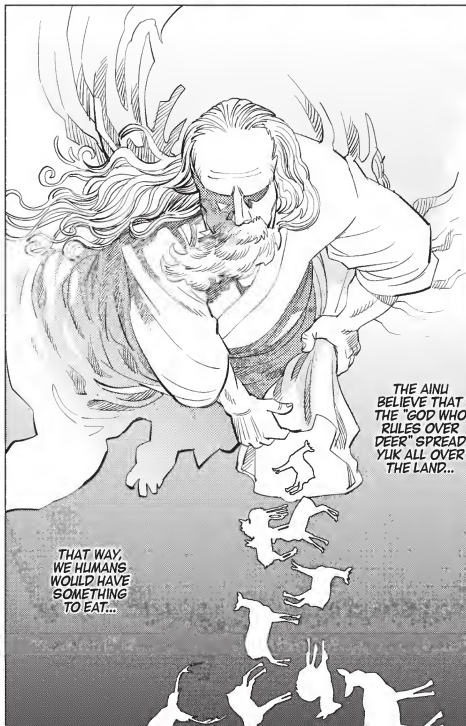
SCRAPE
SCRAPE



IN FACT,
THERE
WERE SO
MANY THAT
PEOPLE
WENT
HUNTING
AFTER THEY
PLUT THEIR
POT ON THE
FIRE...

...IN THE OLD
DAYS, THERE
WERE MORE
DEER THAN
THERE ARE
NOW.

ACCORDING
TO HUCI, MY
GRANDMA...



THAT WAY,
WE HUMANS
WOULD HAVE
SOMETHING
TO EAT...

THE AINI
BELIEVE THAT
THE "GOD WHO
RULES OVER
DEER" SPREAD
YUK ALL OVER
THE LAND...

UNLIKE THE
KIMLIKAMLIY
OR
HOWKEWKAMLIY—
BEARS AND
WOLVES—WE
DO NOT
CALL DEER
KAMLIY.

WE
CALL THEM
YUK, WHICH
MEANS "PREY."
I THINK THAT
SHOWS HOW
EASY THEY
WERE TO
HUNT.

A GREAT
NUMBER OF
THEM DIED.



BUT ONE
WINTER...

RECORDS FROM
1879 (MEIJI 12)
IN FACT INDICATE
THAT THE WEATHER
THAT WINTER WAS
ABNORMAL. IT
WAS ONE OF THE
CATALYSTS THAT LED
TO THE EXTINCTION
OF THE HOKKAIDO
WOLVES.

MANY OF
THE WOLVES
THAT EAT
DEER ALSO
DIED.



THIS
ANGERED
THE GODS,
AND THEY
REFUSED TO
SEND ANY
MORE DOWN.

THE DEER
WERE SO
EASY TO HUNT
THAT PEOPLE
MUST HAVE
STOPPED
TREATING
THEM WITH
PROPER
RESPECT...

THE SNOW
WAS SO
DEEP THAT
THE DEER
COULD NOT
DIG DEEP
ENOUGH TO
REACH FOOD.

HUICI
TOLD
ME THIS
STORY
MANY
TIMES.





DASH

LET'S GO
AFTER HIM!
START
CLIMBING!

SHIT! I
MISSED
HIS
VITALS!

WE'VE
GOT TO
FINISH IT
OFF.

I
PANICKED
AND GOT
SLOPPY...

DAMN
IT!

IF WE LET
THE DEER GET
AWAY, ALL I'LL
HAVE DONE IS
NEEDLESSLY
LET IT RUN
AROUND IN
AGONY.

SEARCH
FOR BLOOD
DROPS ON
THE BAMBOO
GRASS! WE
NEED TO FIND
WHERE HE
EXITED THE
THICKET.

HE RAN
THROUGH
THIS
THICKET.

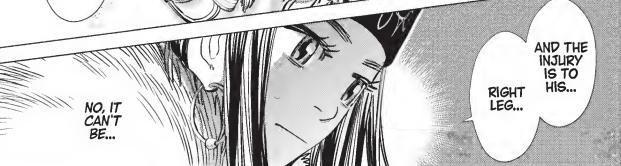


IS HE
HOLDING
A STICK
IN EACH
HAND?

THESE
ARE
TRACKS
OF A DOG
AND TWO
MEN...

ONE OF
THEM IS
PRETTY
BIG AND
THE OTHER
HAS AN
ODD GAIT.

HE
MUST BE
INJURED.



NO, IT
CAN'T
BE...

AND THE
INJURY
IS TO
HIS...
RIGHT
LEG...



BUT
LOOK AT THIS
LITTLE DOG.
THE AINU HAVE
TRAINED HIS
BREED TO BE
FEARLESS
EVEN IN THE
FACE OF
BROWN
BEARS.

YOU
MATAGI
MIGHT
THINK
YOU
HUNT
BEARS
...
BUT
COMPARED
TO THE
MASSIVE
SIZE OF
THE BROWN
BEARS WE
HAVE IN
HOKKAIDO
...

THE BLACK
BEARS YOU
HUNT ARE
LIKE CUBS.

USING A
GUN LIKE
THAT ISN'T A
MATTER OF
PERSONAL
PREFERENCE.
IT'S JUST
OUT OF
DATE.

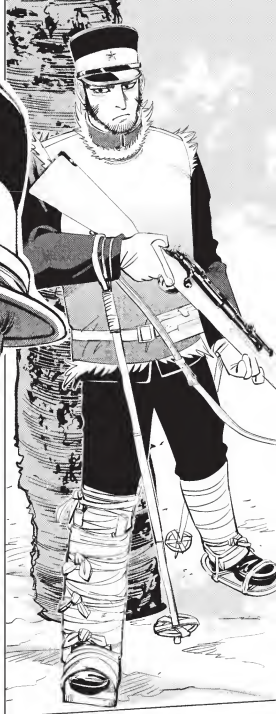
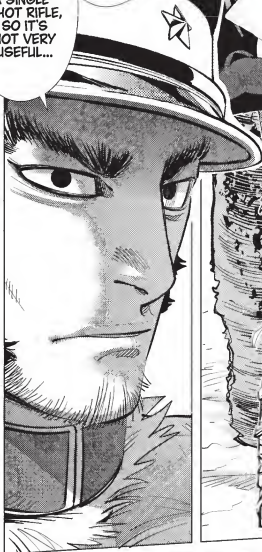
THAT
MURATA
RIFLE YOU'RE
USING... MY
FATHER,
WHO WAS
A MATAGI,
ALSO
USED THAT
MODEL...

BUT
IT'S ONLY
A SINGLE-
SHOT RIFLE,
SO IT'S
NOT VERY
USEFUL...

HRMPH!

THAT RIFLE
YOU'VE
GOT
HOLDS
FIVE
ROUNDS,
RIGHT?

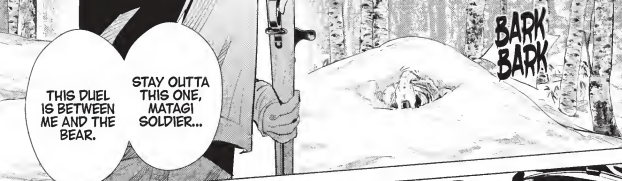
THAT'S
CERTAINLY
QUITE
USEFUL.



IF IT'S
A SOW,
GIVE IT
A GOOD
FUCKING!



GO GET
THAT
BEAR,
RYU! GO!
GO! GO!



THIS DUEL
IS BETWEEN
ME AND THE
BEAR.

STAY OUTTA
THIS ONE,
MATAGI
SOLDIER...

BARK
BARK



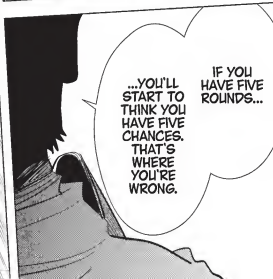
AREN'T
YOU GOING
TO GET
SOME
SPARE
ROUNDS
READY?



...SO
HE CAN
QUICKLY
RELOAD
IF HE
MISSES

...ALWAYS
HOLDS
SOME
SPARE
ROUNDS
BETWEEN
HIS
FINGERS...

ANY
HUNTER
THAT USES
A MURATA
RIFLE...



...YOU'LL
START TO
THINK YOU
HAVE FIVE
CHANCES.
THAT'S
WHERE
YOU'RE
WRONG.

IF YOU
HAVE FIVE
ROUNDS...

I ONLY HAVE
ONE SHOT,
AND THAT'S
WHY I CAN
USE IT WITH
ABSOLITE
CONFIDENCE.

IF YOU
DON'T KILL
IT WITH
ONE SHOT,
YOU'RE
DEAD.



IF YOU
GET ALL
STIFFENED
UP, YOU'RE
FINISHED.

B
A

B
W
O
H

HE
STARTLED
THE
BEAR BY
STANDING
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
THE DEN
AS IT
CHARGED
OUT!

GASP

N
G



THAT'S
YOUR
NAME.

HIS NAME
WAS
TETSUZO
NIHEI.

IN MY
HOMETOWN,
I'VE HEARD
STORIES FROM
A MEDICINE
SELLER
WHO CAME
TO PEDDLE
BEAR GALL
BLADDERS
...

HE TOLD
ME ABOUT
A MAN IN
HOKKAIDO
CALLED THE
LEGENDARY
BEAR
HUNTER.

APPARENTLY,
EVERY TIME
HE WENT
INTO THE
MOUNTAINS,
THE BEARS
THAT LIVED
THERE WOULD
VANISH.



WHEN
I SAVED
YOU AFTER
FINDING YOU
COLLAPSED
IN THE SNOW,
IT WASN'T
BECAUSE I
WANTED A
LOVER.

SO,
TANIGAKI
OF THE
MATAGI
...
HOW
LONG'RE
YOU
PLANNING
TO TAG
ALONG?



THE
WHITE
WOLF.

I THINK
WE'RE
BOTH
AFTER
THE SAME
THING.

DON'T
BULLSHIT
ME...



Chapter 23: Hunter's Spirit



THIS FACE...
THIS BEAR
WOULD HAVE
EVENTUALLY
BECOME A
MAN-EATER.

I'LL CUT
HER OPEN
RIGHT
NOW AND
PROVE IT
TO YOU.

HOW DO
YOU KNOW
THAT?



JUST LIKE
HUMANS,
WOULDN'T
YOU SAY?
NYAH HA
HA!

FEMALE
BEARS
ARE MORE
VIOLENT
AND A
HELL OF
A LOT
SCARIER.



AND IT
LOOKS
LIKE SHE
HASN'T
HAD ANY
CLIBS
BEFORE.

IT'S A
SIX-
YEAR-
OLD
SOW...

IT'S THE
KIND OF
BEAR THAT
GETS MORE
AGGRES-
SIVE WITH
TIME.



HOW DO
YOU KNOW
ALL THAT
JUST BY
LOOKING AT
ITS FACE?



AND
SOME KEEP
CHARGING
NO MATTER
HOW MANY
TIMES YOU
SHOOT
THEM.

SOME
STAND
ERECT
AND
EXPOSE
THEIR
VITALS.

SOME
GET
SCARED
WHEN
THEY
SEE YOU,
AND RUN
AWAY.

BUT EACH
BEAR HAS
DIFFERENT
TRAITS.

SINCE
YOU'RE A
MATAGI,
YOU
PROBABLY
KNOW THIS
ALREADY...



AND WHEN
A BEAR
DOUBLES
BACK
ON ITS
TRACKS, IT
JUMPS INTO
A THICKET
ON THE
SIDE OF A
MOUNTAIN
TO CIRCLE
BEHIND THE
HUNTER.

FOR
INSTANCE,
A BEAR
THAT RUNS
INTO A
BAMBOO
GRASS
THICKET
WILL
STAY THERE...

STILL,
THERE
ARE
SOME
HABITS
ALL
BEARS
SHARE...



YOU'VE
GOT AN
ADVANTAGE
IF YOU
LEARN ALL
OF THEIR
HABITS.

SO, BEAR
TRAITS
AND HABITS
ARE TWO
DIFFERENT
THINGS...

TWO
HUNDRED? BY
HIMSELF? I'VE
BEEN IN A LOT
OF HUNTING
PARTIES AS A
MATAGI, BUT
WE HAVEN'T
EVEN COME
CLOSE TO
KILLING THAT
MANY!



AND EVERY
TIME IT WAS
DIFFERENT.

I'VE KILLED
OVER 200
BEARS
MYSELF.

SCRAPE
SCRAPE

AND I
SUPPOSE
THAT
MEANS
YOU'VE
HUNTED
A WOLF
BEFORE?

BUT
SINCE
YOU'RE
INJURED
...

...YOU'RE
MORE OF
A WALKING
TARGET.

SO,
AS A
MATAGI
SOLDIER
...

...YOU'VE
NEVER
EXPERI-
ENCED A
DUEL WITH
A WOLF
BEFORE,
RIGHT?



AND I
WANT TO
HUNT ONE
BECAUSE
I DON'T
KNOW A
DAMNED
THING
ABOUT
THEM!

NOPE!



HUMANS
AND THEIR
TRAPS
EXTERMINATED
THE REST
OF THE
WOLVES.

...THEY
STARTED
HUNTING
LIVESTOCK.

WHEN THE
DEER DIED
OFF IN
DROVES
AND THE
WOLVES
LOST
THEIR
PREY...



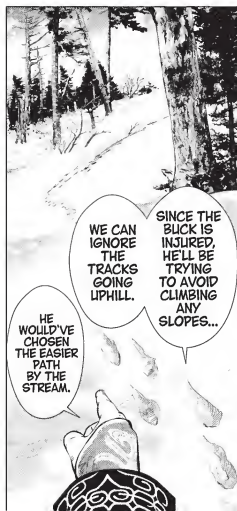


**MY
HUNTER'S
SPIRIT IS
ABSOLUTELY
THROBBING!**

**AND YET,
THERE'S A
WOLF THAT
SURVIVED
THIS BATTLE
OF WITS
AGAINST
HUMANS.
THE LAST OF
ITS KIND!**



**IT'S A
BATTLE OF
MY TRAITS
AGAINST
THE
WOLF'S.**



HE
WOULD'VE
CHOSEN
THE EASIER
PATH
BY THE
STREAM.

WE CAN
IGNORE
THE
TRACKS
GOING
UPHILL.

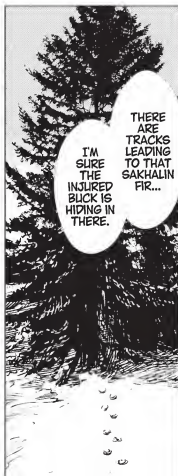
SINCE THE
BUCK IS
INJURED,
HE'LL BE
TRYING TO
AVOID
CLIMBING
ANY
SLOPES...



DON'T
LOSE
SIGHT
OF THE
BLOOD
TRAIL!

THE
TRACKS
OF THE
INJURED
ONE ARE
MIXED UP
WITH
ALL THE
REST.

JUDGING
FROM THE
TRACKS,
IT LOOKS
LIKE A LOT
OF DEER
HAVE COME
THROUGH
HERE...





WHOA,
WHAT
THE HELL
IS THAT?



AINU HUNTERS,
WITH THEIR
COURAGE AND
SKILL, CAN
DESCEND STEEP
SLOPES AT SPEEDS
RIVALING THAT OF
A SKIER.

KUWAECARGE
IS THE TECHNIQUE
OF SLIDING DOWN
A SLOPE USING A
HIKING STICK MADE
FROM THE HARDY,
TOUGH WOOD OF THE
JAPANESE ALDER.







WHERE'D
IT GO?



A-ASIRPA,
WHERE'S
THE DEER?



PWAH
PWO

PLOOF



...

IT'S AN
INCREDIBLY
STRONG
BUCK.

IT SAW
YOU
AND RAN
UP THE
OPPOSITE
SLOPE...

I
NEVER
IMAGINED
IT HAD
THAT
MUCH
ENERGY
LEFT.



LET'S
MAKE A
QUICK
TEMPORARY
SHELTER AND
WAIT FOR
MORNING.

WE
CAN'T
MAKE IT
BACK
TO THE
HUT.

IT'LL
BE
DARK
SOON
...



THE TRUNK
WILL MAKE
A NATURAL
ROOF.

FIND A
STUNTED
SAKHALIN
FIR AND CUT
IT DOWN SO
IT FALLS ON
TOP OF A
DEPRESSION
IN THE
GROUND.



WE AIN'T CALL
IT SETUR
SESEKKA, BACK
SEARING. THEY
SAY IF YOU
WARM YOUR
BACK, YOUR
WHOLE BODY
WILL HEAT UP.

TAKE
OFF YOUR COAT
AND PUT YOUR
BACK AGAINST
THE FIRE. IF
YOU KEEP YOUR
COAT ON, YOU
WON'T ABSORB
THE HEAT AS
WELL...

IT'S SO
COLD...

ARE WE
REALLY
GOING TO
SPEND
THE NIGHT
UNDER
A BARE
TREE?

THEN
COVER
THE
GROUND
WITH
BRANCHES.

CUT AWAY
ANY
BRANCHES
THAT ARE
IN THE WAY
AND MAKE A
SPACE FOR
US TO
SLEEP
IN...



...YEAH.

WE'LL FOLLOW HIS TRACKS WHEN MORNING COMES, AND CATCH UP TO HIM FOR SURE.

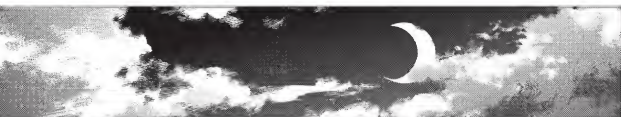
THAT BUCK MUST BE SLEEPING TOO. HE'S HURT, SO HE CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR...



NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS WORRYING ABOUT...

SO DON'T WORRY.

EVEN IF THE FLAVOR OF THE MEAT AND LIVER SUFFERS, THE BRAIN AND EYEBALLS WILL STILL TASTE GOOD...



WELL THEN! TONIGHT, YOU'LL GET A RARE CHANCE TO ENJOY MY EXQUISITE, FRESHLY HUNTED BEAR CUISINE!



**ROASTED
HEART!**

**NIHEI
STYLE!**

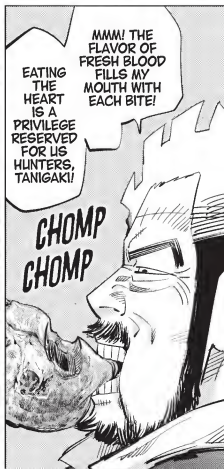


WHEN
DRIED AND
POWDERED,
IT WAS
ALSO
USED AS
MEDICINE.

IT RAISES
BODY
TEMPERATURE
AND SERVES
AS AN
ANALEPTIC.

ACCORDING
TO CUSTOM,
THE
HUNTER
WHO KILLED
THE BEAR
GETS TO
DRINK ITS
BLOOD.

THE
MATAGI
DRINK THE
BEAR'S
BLOOD,
DON'T
THEY?



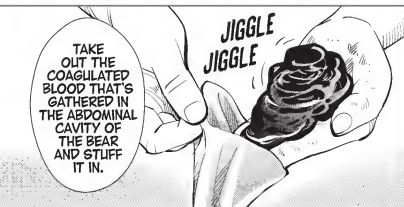
MMM! THE
FLAVOR OF
FRESH BLOOD
FILLS MY
MOUTH WITH
EACH BITE!

EATING
THE
HEART
IS A
PRIVILEGE
RESERVED
FOR US
HUNTERS,
TANIGAKI!

**CHOMP
CHOMP**



TURN THE
SMALL
INTESTINES
INSIDE OUT
AND WASH
THEM WITH
SNOW.



TAKE
OUT THE
COAGULATED
BLOOD THAT'S
GATHERED IN
THE ABDOMINAL
CAVITY OF
THE BEAR
AND STUFF
IT IN.

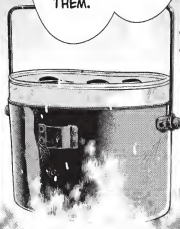
**JIGGLE
JIGGLE**

**B
U
B
B
L
E**

A GUY
FROM
MONGOLIA
TAUGHT
ME HOW
TO MAKE
THEM.

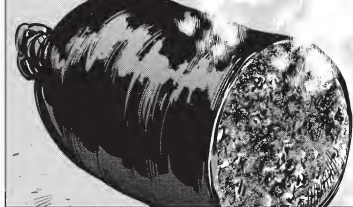
IN WHICH
CASE, YOU
SHOULD
HAVE NO
PROBLEM
EATING
THESE...

**B
U
B
B
L
E**



**NIHEI
STYLE!**

**BLOOD
SAUSAGES!**



THIS
BLOODY
TASTE IS
GREAT!

NOM
NOM
MMM.



MLIA
HA
HA
HA!

FLINCH

HARD-ON!

BE CAREFUL
THOUGH!
THESE THINGS
WILL FILL YOU
TO THE BRIM
WITH ENERGY!
DON'T BLOW
OFF THE ROOF
AND DESTROY
MY HUT!



CHEW
CHEW



MOST
OF US
DON'T
LIKE TO
RATTLE
ON
ABOUT
OUR WAY
OF LIFE.

YOU MUST
HAVE MET
A VERY
TALKATIVE
MATAGI...



ONCE YOU
GO INTO THE
MOUNTAINS,
YOU'RE
FORBIDDEN TO
SNEEZE OR
EVEN COUGH,
RIGHT?

THOSE
LITTERLY
SILENT,
ELITE
HUNTERS.

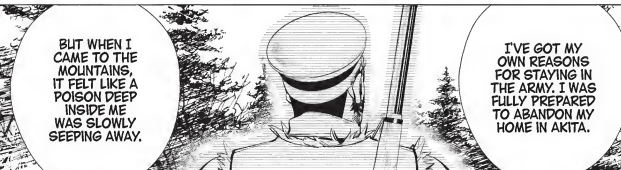
YOU'RE
PRETTY
QUIET.
THE
MATAGI
LIFE-
STYLE
REALLY
HAS
RUBBED
OFF ON
YOU...



WHY DON'T
YOU GO
BACK TO
YOUR
HOMETOWN
AND BECOME
A MATAGI
AGAIN,
TANIGAKI?



WHY
ARE YOU
SITTING
THERE IN
THAT FUNNY
LITTLE
ARMY CAP?



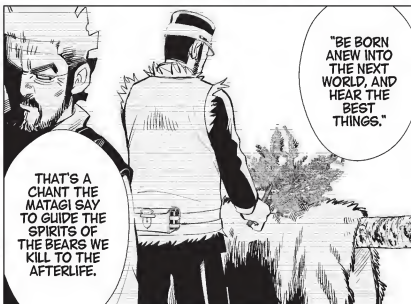
BUT WHEN I
CAME TO THE
MOUNTAINS,
IT FELT LIKE A
POISON DEEP
INSIDE ME
WAS SLOWLY
SEEPING AWAY.

I'VE GOT MY
OWN REASONS
FOR STAYING IN
THE ARMY. I WAS
FULLY PREPARED
TO ABANDON MY
HOME IN AKITA.



THIS WOLF
HUNT IS
JUST A
CONVENIENT
EXCUSE
FOR YOU,
IT SEEMS.

...



THAT'S A
CHANT THE
MATAGI SAY
TO GUIDE THE
SPIRITS OF
THE BEARS WE
KILL TO THE
AFTERLIFE.

"BE BORN
ANEW INTO
THE NEXT
WORLD, AND
HEAR THE
BEST
THINGS."



FOR ALL THE
MEN I KILLED
DURING THE
WAR... I NEVER
UTTERED
THAT CHANT.



YOUR
HUNTER'S
SPIRIT IS
WANDERING
AIMLESSLY
THROUGH THE
FORESTS OF
HOKKAIDO.

YOU
CAN'T
GO BACK
TO THE
ARMY...

AND YOU
CAN'T GO
HOME.



TOSS



WHEN WE
KILL THAT
WOLF, TAKE
ITS PELT AS
A TROPHY
AND GO
HOME.

TANIGAKI...



HARD-
ON.

NYA
HA HA
HA...

HEH.

ZZZ

Chapter 24: What Lives On

FLIK

**GET UP,
SUGIMOTO!**

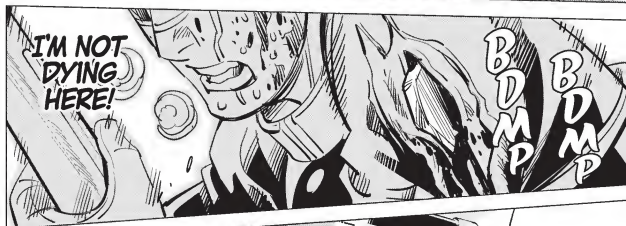


VWIP

VWIP

SLOW
DOWN
AND
YOU'RE
DEAD!

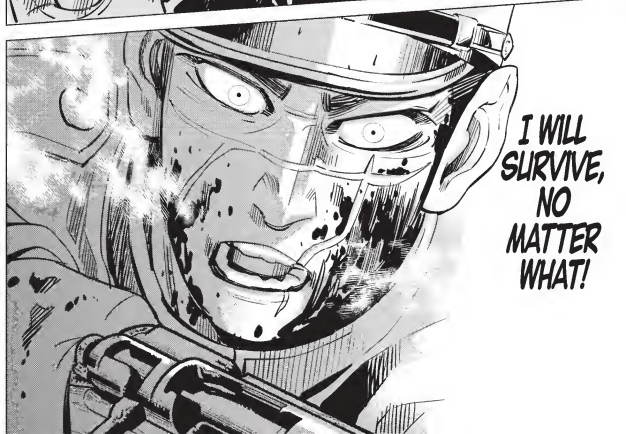
VWIP
CHARGE!
CHARGE!



I'M NOT
DYING
HERE!

B
D
M
P

B
D
M
P



I WILL
SURVIVE,
NO
MATTER
WHAT!



Chapter 24: What Lives On



THERE'S
BLOOD...

THIS IS
THE BUCK
WE'RE
AFTER FOR
SURE.

A DEER DUG
OUT A PATCH
OF THE SNOW
AND SLEPT
HERE.

WE
WERE
JUST A
LITTLE
TOO
LATE.

*TWO RI = ABOUT 8 KILOMETERS



BUT THE
DISTANCE
BETWEEN
HOOFPRI
N
T
S
IS GETTING
SHORT-
ER...

WE
CAN
DEFINITE
LY
CATCH
UP TO
HIM.

WHE
WHE



IT LOOKS
LIKE HE
BARELY
SLEPT AT
ALL, AND
JUST KEPT
RUNNING.

THESE
DROPPINGS
ARE
ALREADY
FROZEN, SO
HE MAY BE
AS MUCH AS
TWO RI*
AWAY...

DEER
DEFECATE AT
SET INTERVALS,
SO WE CAN USE
THE DISTANCE
BETWEEN
DROPPINGS TO
JUDGE HOW
FAR IT IS
FROM US...



HERE,
YOU CAN
TOUCH
THEM,
SUGI-
MOTO...

THE
DEER'S
OSOMA
ARE
FROZEN...

...BUT
DON'T
EAT
THEM!

PLOP

...



HOW DO YOU
PLAN TO
HUNT THAT
WOLF?

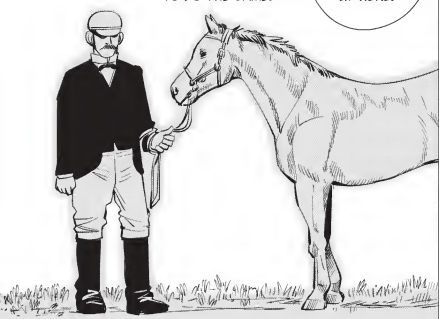


LET'S
SHOOT A
DEER.

FIRST,
WE'LL FIND
SOMETHING
TO USE AS
BAIT...

EVERY DAY,
DOZENS OF
WOLVES ATE
THE POISON
AND DIED.

IN ORDER TO
PROTECT HIS
LIVESTOCK
FROM WOLVES,
HE SPREAD
STRYCHNINE-
LACED BAIT ALL
OVER HIS RANCH,
AND HE ADVISED
OTHER RANCHES
TO DO THE SAME.



WELL, THE
HOKKAIDO
WOLVES WERE
ACTUALLY
FINISHED
OFF BY AN
AMERICAN WHO
BUILT A RANCH
UP HERE.



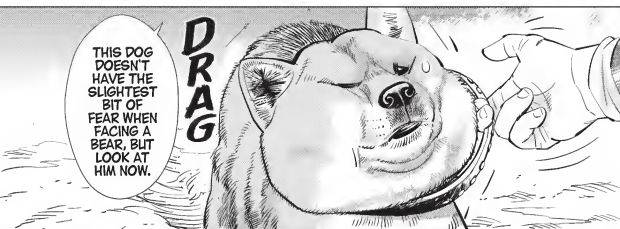
WHY?

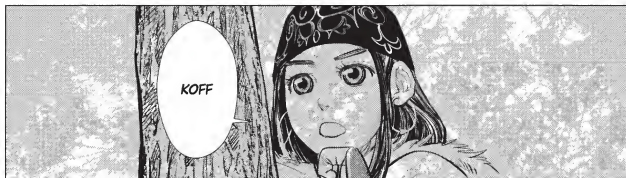
WE'VE
ALREADY
GOT ALL THIS
LEFTOVER
BEAR MEAT, SO
WHY GO OUT
OF OUR WAY
TO HUNT A
DEER?







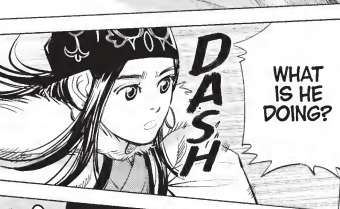
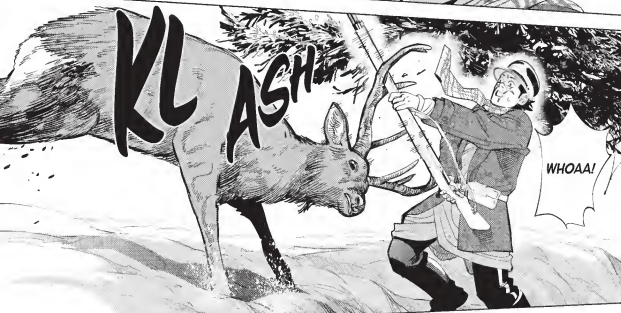
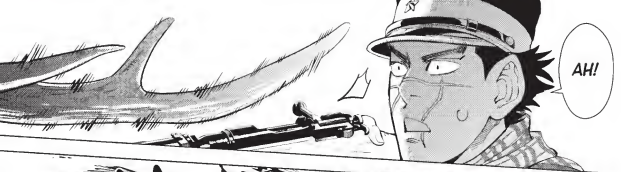


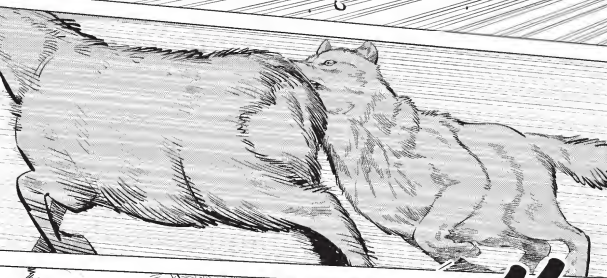




SLIG-
MOTO,
SHOOT!









I
REALIZED
THAT THIS
DEER IS...
ME.



WHY DIDN'T
YOU SHOOT
IT? YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
SAID YOU
WOULD FINISH
IT OFF!



RETAR!
KEEP IT
PINNED
DOWN!



HE DIDN'T
EVEN HAVE
THE BODY
HEAT TO
MELT IT...

IT WAS
FROZEN
SOLID AND
DANGLING
FROM
THE
WOUND...

THE
BLOOD
FROM HIS
WOUND...

...I
COULDN'T
MOVE.

BUT EVEN
THEN, HE
IGNORED HIS
INJURY AND
FOUGHT FOR
HIS LIFE. AND
WHEN OUR
EYES MET...







HOW
DOES IT
FEEL?



!



INSIDE
ITS
BODY?



SUGIMOTO...
PUT YOUR
HANDS IN
HERE.



I CAN
FEEL MY
HANDS
WARMING
UP.

IT'S
HOT...

THE
DEER'S
LIFE HAD
MEANING.

THE REST
OF ITS
BODY WILL
GIVE LIFE
TO THE
TREES, THE
GRASS AND
THE SOIL.

WE'LL EAT
ITS MEAT,
AS WILL
OTHER
ANIMALS...

THAT
WARMTH
REACHES
YOU,
WARMES
YOU AND
GIVES YOU
LIFE.

THIS
DEER
WARMES
YOU IN ITS
DEATH,
SUGIMOTO
...







Chapter 25: Yuk





THE MEAT
OF A DEER
THAT WAS
INJURED
BUT NOT
KILLED
SOON
AFTER...

...
DECLINES
IN
QUALITY
AND
FLAVOR...
THE
LIVER,
ESPECIALLY.

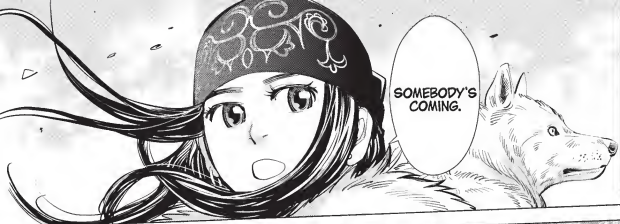


HERE,
SUGIMOTO.
TAKE A
BITE OUT
OF THE
LIVER AND
SEE HOW IT
TASTES.

STRESS
CAUSES
GLYCOGEN
WITHIN
THE
MUSCLES
TO BE
USED
UP.

SINCE
MOST
GLYCOGEN
IS MADE
AND STORED
IN THE
LIVER, IT IS
AFFECTED
BY
EXTREME
STRAIN.





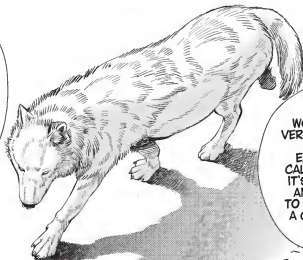
SOMEBODY'S
COMING.



RETAR DETECTED THE
POWERFUL SCENT OF
DEATH EMANATING FROM
THE TWO MEN, AND
REALIZED SOMETHING
UNPLEASANT WAS
APPROACHING.



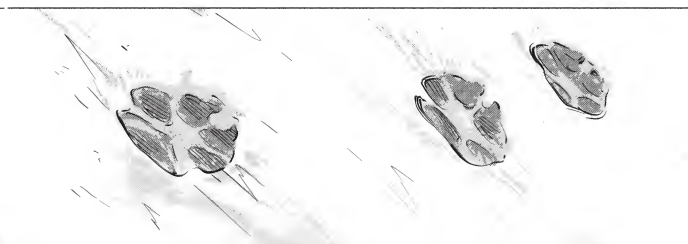
NORMALLY,
RETAR WOULD
HAVE LEFT BY
NOW, BUT SINCE
WE'RE STILL HERE,
HE'S TELLING US
TO HURRY UP
AND LEAVE.



BUT
WOLVES ARE
VERY DIFFERENT.
THEY'RE
EXTREMELY
CAUTIOUS, AND
IT'S HARD FOR
ANY HUNTER
TO EVEN CATCH
A GLIMPSE OF
THEM.



BROWN BEARS
ARE SO TENACIOUS
THAT THEY'LL
SLEEP ON TOP OF
HALF-EATEN PREY
SO THAT NOTHING
ELSE CAN GET TO
IT. SOMETIMES,
HUNTERS WILL TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF THIS
HABIT.





IT'S
THOSE
TWO
FROM THE
OTHER
DAY.

THOSE
MARKS
ARE
FROM A
TYPE 30
RIFLE...

AND
THOSE
PRINTS
ARE
MADE
BY A MAN
WEARING
BOOTS
AND A
CHILD WITH
DEERSKIN
SHOES.



NORMALLY,
IF YOU HAD
MORE MEAT
THAN YOU COULD
CARRY, YOU
WOULD HANG IT
FROM A TREE
OR SUBMERGE
IT IN A RIVER SO
THAT ANIMALS
COULDN'T
GET TO IT.

THEY DID
A HALF-
ASSED
JOB OF
CLEANING
UP AFTER
THEM-
SELVES.



...

THEY MIGHT
BE JUST A
COUPLE OF
HUNTERS.

IT DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
THEY'RE
FOLLOWING
OUR TRACKS.

IT'S TOO FAR
FOR ME TO
RECOGNIZE
THE FACES,
BUT ONE
OF THEM IS
WEARING A
SOLDIER'S
UNIFORM...

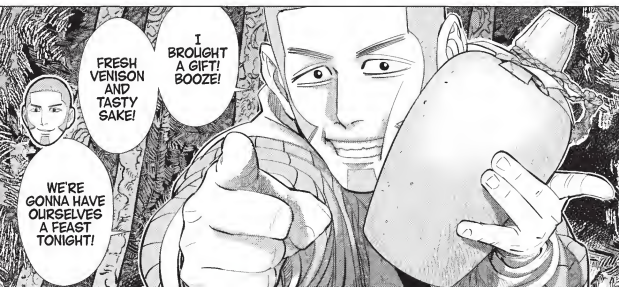


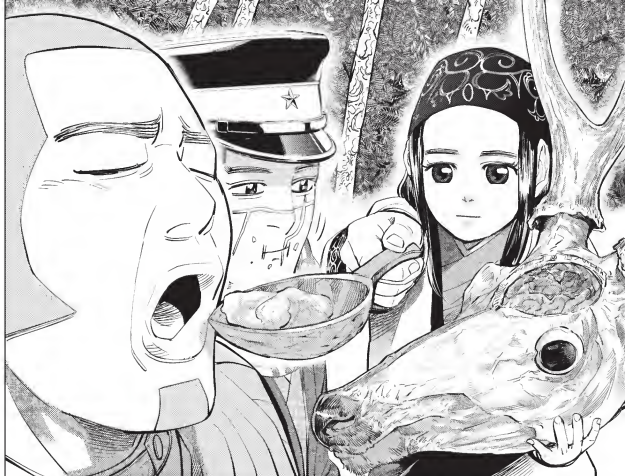




I'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR YOU
GUYS TO
SHOW UP!

OH, IT'S
JUST
SHIRAISHI.









NOW EAT
UP, YOU
SLUMBAGS!

AND
JUST SO YOU
WIMPY CITY
BOYS CAN
STOMACH IT,
I SEARED IT
A BIT WITH A
DASH OF
SALT.

THIS IS
FROM THE
BACK OF
THE DEER.
IT'S THE
BEST
PART!

SHIRAISHI'S
BEING ALL
WHINY, SO
WE'LL EAT
THE MEAT
HE WANTS
SO BAD!



HEE AH
HEE! HA HA!

AND IT
GOES
GREAT
WITH
SAKE!

IT'S JUST A
BIT GAMEY,
BUT SO
TENDER
AND
DELICIOUS...

TERRIFIC!

NOSH
NOSH
NOSH

OOH,
NOW
THIS
LOOKS
DELISH!
LEMMIE
DIG IN!



I'M
FULL.

WHAT
DID
YOU
SAY
?!

S
N
U
B

HEY,
SUGIMOTO!
THERE'S
STILL SOME
CITATAP
LEFT! YOU
HAVE TO
FINISH IT!

P
B
B
B
T
!

SLAP

YOU
IDIOT!!

ALL OF IT
IS PROOF
THAT THIS
DEER WAS
ALIVE!

THE
HEAT
OF ITS
INNARDS!
THE TASTE
OF ITS
FLESH!

THE
INSPIRING
SIGHT OF
THE DEER'S
POWERFUL
RUN!

EAT
EVERY-
THING!
FORGET
NOTHING!

THIS IS HOW
YOU SHOW
RESPECT AND
RESPO-
NSI-
BILITY TO
YOUR PREY!



WOULD
YOU
BE THE
ONE TO
REMEMBER
ME,
ASIRPA?

SO IF I
DIED...



DON'T DIE,
SLIGIMOTO!

WAAAH!



EH? IF
SLIGIMOTO
DIED?



IT'S
WONDER-
FUL!

CITATAP!



LIM NOM
NOM
NOM



SEE,
ASIRPA?
HE'S
IMMORTAL!
NOW HAVE
SOME
CITATAP!

I'M IM-
MORTAL!

WAAA!



CHWFF



IT'S
ABOUT A
CONVICT WITH
A TATTOO!
ONE OF THE
TATTOOS THAT
WILL LEAD
US TO THE
GOLD!



THERE'S
ANOTHER
REASON I
CAME BACK
HERE.

OH YEAH,
SLIGIMOTO.

I PICKED
UP SOME
GOOD INFO
IN TOWN.



DON'T
YOU
FORGET
THE WHOLE
REASON
WE'RE
HERE!

G-GOLD?



...THAT A
GUY WHO
WENT TO
PRISON
YEARS AGO
FOR KILLING
THREE
MEN JUST
SUDDENLY
RETURNED.

I JUST SO
HAPPENED
TO GET TO
KNOW A FUR
TRADER IN
TOWN, AND
HE TOLD
ME...



HE'S A
WILD
BEAST
OF A
MAN.

WE WERE
BOTH IN
ABASHIRI
PRISON
TOGETHER.

I HAPPEN
TO KNOW
WHO THAT
GUY IS
QUITE
WELL...



IS IT TRUE
THAT THE
MATAGI WASH
THEMSELVES
WITH COLD
WATER
BEFORE
GOING OUT
ON A HUNT?

SO
TANIGAKI...



...AND
THE FUR
TRADERS
ARE IN
SUCH
AWE OF
HIM THAT
THEY'VE
STARTED
CALLING
HIM...

HE'S AN
AMAZINGLY
SKILLED
HUNTER...



THE
MATAGI
BELIEVE
THAT THE
GUARDIAN
OF THE
MOUNTAINS
IS A
GODDESS
...

TO MAKE
SURE THE
GODDESS
DOES NOT
BECOME
JEALOUS, WE
WASH AWAY
ALL SCENTS
OF WOMEN
BEFORE WE
GO INTO THE
MOUNTAINS
TO HUNT.



SEEMS LIKE
EVERY BELIEF
YOU MATAGI
HAVE REVOLVES
AROUND
RATIONALIZING
THE HUNT.



WE NEED TO
TAKE EVERY
POSSIBLE
PRECAUTION.

OUR
TARGET
IS A WOLF
AND A
WOLF'S
SENSE OF
SMELL IS
UNCANNY.



THE
NIGHTMARE
BEAR
HUNTER...
TETSUZO
NIHEI.

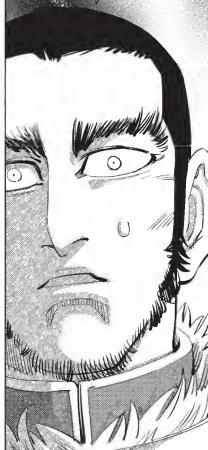
THE MAN
WHO MAKES
HIBERNATING
BEARS
COWER IN
FEAR.

Chapter 26: The Law of the Mountain





THAT
TATTOO...!



COME ON,
DON'T
STARE AT
ME LIKE
THAT.

IT'S JUST
SHRIVELED
UP BECAUSE
OF THE
COLD...

NORMALLY,
IT'S MORE
MAGNIFI-
CENT.



YOU'RE
ONE
OF THE
ABASHIRI
CONVICTS!



YOU'VE GOT
SOME NERVE
CRACKING
JOKES,
ESPECIALLY
AFTER
MURDERING
THOSE
POACHERS.

SWIP



I FEEL MORE
GUILTY WHEN I
KILL ANIMALS
THAN I DID
ABOUT KILLING
THOSE FOOLS.

THAT WAS
THE RESULT
OF A SQUABBLE
BETWEEN MEN
BLINDED BY
GREED.



OR
TANIGAKI
THE
SOLDIER?

TANIGAKI
THE
MATAGI?



WILL YOU
GO BACK
TO THE
ARMY?

SO, YOU
GOING TO
SHOOT
ME AND
SKIN ME,
THEN?

WHICH IS
STANDING
IN FRONT
OF ME
RIGHT
NOW?



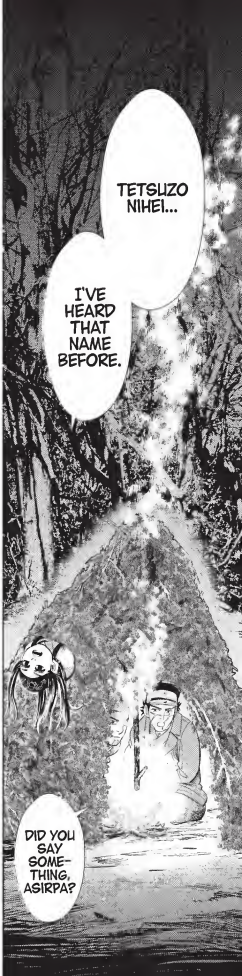
ONCE,
WHEN MY
FATHER AND
I WERE OUT
HUNTING,
THEY
TARGETED
US.

A WHILE
BACK, THERE
WERE SOME
HORRIBLE
MEN WHO
WENT AROUND
MURDERING
HUNTERS AND
STEALING
THEIR PREY...

ZWIP
ZWIP
ZWIP



ON THE
SPUR
OF THE
MOMENT,
MY FATHER
CUT A MARK
INTO THE
BEAR'S
RUMP AND
WE MADE A
RUN FOR IT.



TETSUZO
NIHEI...

I'VE
HEARD
THAT
NAME
BEFORE.

BUT THEY
CHOSE
THE
WRONG
MAN TO
ATTACK.



THEY
HID OUT
IN THE
MOUNTAINS
AND FOUND
A NEW
HUNTER
TO ROB.

HE WAS
ARRESTED,
BUT IT
TURNED
OUT HE HAD
THREE MORE
ACCOMPLICES...

WE WENT
TO THE FUR
TRADERS
RIGHT AWAY,
AND BEFORE
LONG,
SOMEONE
CAME IN
CARRYING A
Pelt WITH
THE SAME
MARK...

DID YOU
SAY
SOME-
THING,
ASIRPA?



IT WAS
SPRING,
AND I HAD
TRACKED
DOWN AND
KILLED A BEAR
RIGHT OUT OF
HIBERNATION
...

I WAS
RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
BUTCHERING
IT, WHEN...



...A BULLET
RICOCHETED
OFF THE
GROUND AT
MY FEET. THEN
I HEARD THE
GUNSHOT
OFF IN THE
DISTANCE.

AT THAT
MOMENT, I
REALIZED
THAT I
WAS BEING
TARGETED.



THE
COWARDS
THAT STEAL
FROM
HUNTERS?

SO, THESE
ARE THE
GUYS
I'VE BEEN
HEARING
ABOUT...

...



WHEN I,
TETSUZO
NIHEI, HUNT
A BEAR, I
AM FULLY
PREPARED
TO DIE!

CAN YOU
HEAR ME,
YOU
WORTH-
LESS
THIEVES
?!

IF
YOU'RE
GOING
TO HUNT
ME...



**...YOU'D
BETTER
BE READY
TO END UP
AS ANIMAL
SHIT!**





I WON'T
EVEN USE
A GUN ON
YOU... YOU
LOWLIFES
DON'T
DESERVE
IT!

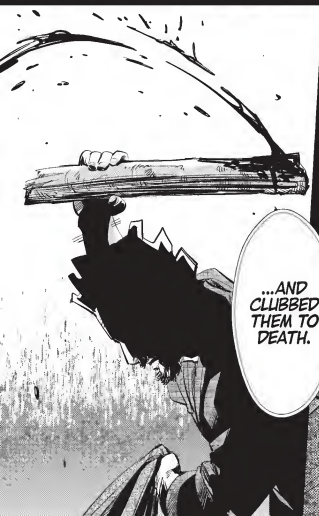
I'LL
JUST
BEAT
YOU
FLICKERS
TO
DEATH!

I
CONSIDER
THAT
SHOT...

...THE
OPENING
OF HUNTING
SEASON!

B
A
N
G

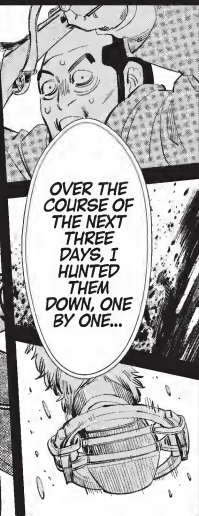
HMPH.



...AND
CLUBBED
THEM TO
DEATH.



OVER THE
COURSE OF
THE NEXT
THREE
DAYS, I
HUNTED
THEM
DOWN, ONE
BY ONE...





BUT
THE LAST
GUY GOT
LUCKY. THE
POLICE WERE
ROUNDING UP
POACHERS
IN THE
MOUNTAINS,
AND HE
RAN INTO
THEM.

HEH
HEH
HEH!

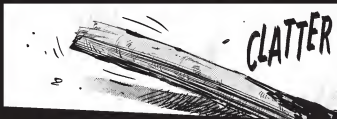


BUT YOU'RE A
BIT TOO LATE!
LOOKS LIKE
WE'LL HAVE TO
SETTLE THIS
ANOTHER TIME!

HAH, YOU
FINALLY
MADE IT,
NIHE!



CHEE
CHEE
CHEE



CLATTER



HEY,
YOU!
DROP
THE CLUB!



HA HA
HA HA
HA!

WE'LL
HANDLE
IT FROM
HERE.

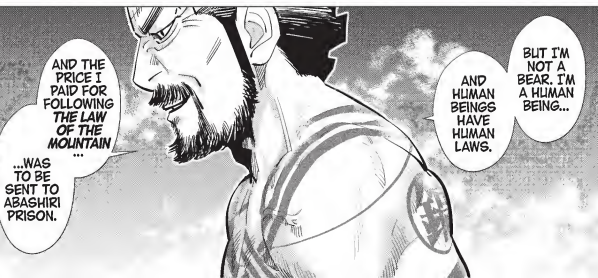
I KNOW
YOU'RE
ANGRY,
BUT YOU
NEED TO
STEP
BACK.

STOP!



I'M MORE
TENACIOUS
THAN ANY
BEAR.

SNAP

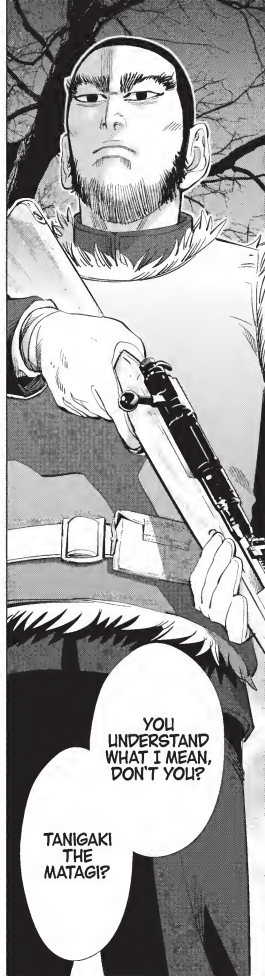


AND THE
PRICE I
PAID FOR
FOLLOWING
THE LAW
OF THE
MOUNTAIN
...

...WAS
TO BE
SENT TO
ABASHIRI
PRISON.

AND
HUMAN
BEINGS
HAVE
HUMAN
LAWS.

BUT I'M
NOT A
BEAR. I'M
A HUMAN
BEING...



YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I MEAN,
DON'T YOU?

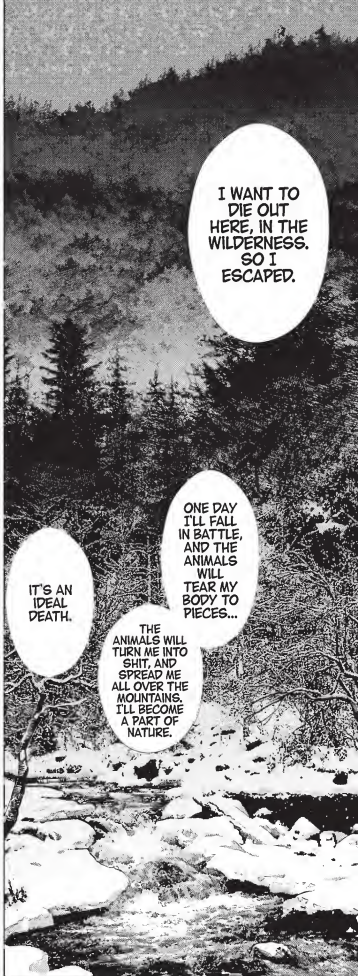
TANIGAKI
THE
MATAGI?

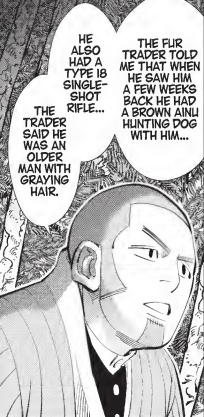
I WANT TO
DIE OUT
HERE, IN THE
WILDERNESS.
SO I
ESCAPED.

IT'S AN
IDEAL
DEATH.

ONE DAY
I'LL FALL
IN BATTLE,
AND THE
ANIMALS
WILL
TEAR MY
BODY TO
PIECES...

THE
ANIMALS WILL
TURN ME INTO
SHIT, AND
SPREAD ME
ALL OVER THE
MOUNTAINS.
I'LL BECOME
A PART OF
NATURE.





HE ALSO HAD A TYPE 18 SINGLE-SHOT RIFLE...

THE TRADER SAID HE WAS AN OLDER MAN WITH GRAYING HAIR.

THE FUR TRADER TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE SAW HIM A FEW WEEKS BACK HE HAD A BROWN ANNU HUNTING DOG WITH HIM...



WHAT KIND OF GUY IS THIS NIHEI?

WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE?



APPARENTLY, NIHEI ASKED THE TRADER...

...HOW MUCH WOULD HE PAY FOR A WHITE WOLF PELT.

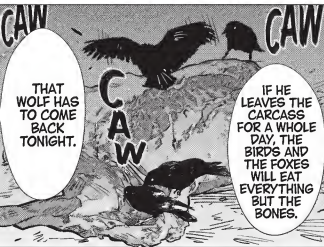
OH, AND ONE MORE THING...!



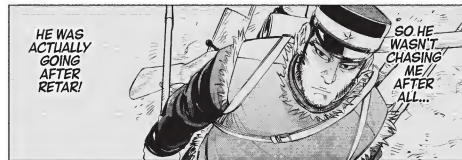
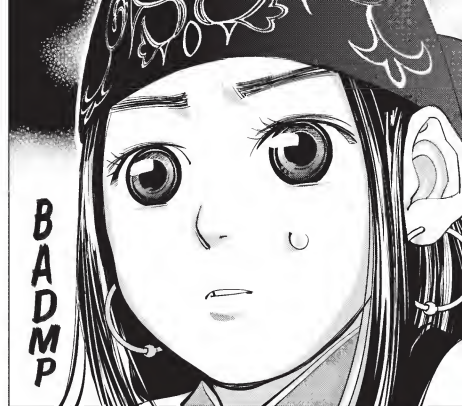
THE ONE WHO WAS WITH THE SOLDIER!

THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE GUY WE SAW EARLIER...!

ASIRPA ...

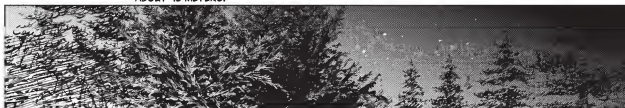


THERE
IT IS...
ANOTHER
CLUE
TO THE
GOLD...!





*ABOUT 45 METERS.





HE GOT US GOOD,
TANIGAKI...

THOSE
ARE
WOLF
FECES.



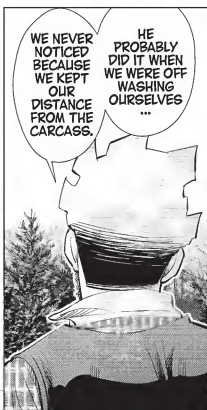
I'VE HEARD OF
SOMETHING
CALLED "WOLF
SENDING,"
WHERE A WOLF
WOULD TRACK
A STRANGE
HUMAN AND
OBSERVE
THEM FROM
AFAR.

IT'S BEEN
WATCHING
US EVER
SINCE WE
ARRIVED
HERE.



THE WOLF
HAD US
GUARDING
HIS SHIT
ALL NIGHT.

THAT'S
WHY THE
FOXES
NEVER
SHOWED
UP.



WE NEVER
NOTICED
BECAUSE
WE KEPT
OUR
DISTANCE
FROM THE
CARCASS.

HE
PROBABLY
DID IT WHEN
WE WERE OFF
WASHING
OURSELVES
...



WHEN DID
HE DO
IT? RYU
DIDN'T
REACT
AT ALL.

...



MY
HARD-ON
IS OUT OF
CONTROL.



YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
CAN CONFIRM
WHETHER OR
NOT THAT GUY
IS TETSUZO
NIHEI,
REMEMBER?



WHY DO
I HAVE
TO COME
ALONG?



WE'LL
CATCH THE
CRIMINAL
AND
PROTECT
RETAI!



LET'S GO!

**Yoshitake
Shiraishi's
Equipment**



Candy

Chapter 27: The Scent of Killing





YOU KNOW, TANIGAKI... IT SEEMS THAT MY SENSE OF SMELL IS MUCH SHARPER THAN THE AVERAGE HUMAN'S.



WE HAD HER SLEEPING ON THE VERANDA WHEN I NOTICED A GIANT HORNET HAD LANDED ON HER FACE.

I REMEMBER... WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS STILL JUST A BABY...



THE WOLF MAY HAVE SENSED THAT.

WE MUST BE GIVING OFF A STRONG, BLOOD-THIRSTY ODOR.



AT THAT VERY MOMENT... I COULD SENSE THE CHANGE IN MY BODY ODOR.



YOU'VE JUST COME BACK FROM THE WAR, SO YOUR SCENT MUST BE ESPECIALLY STRONG.

I REALIZED THAT, THE SMELL WE GIVE OFF ACTUALLY REFLECTS OUR EMOTIONAL STATE.

MELD ONE'S
THOUGHTS
WITH THE
LEAVES AND
BRANCHES
AND
DISAPPEAR.

WHEN A
HUNTER IS
LYING IN
AMBUSH FOR
HIS PREY,
HE SHOULD
"BECOME A
TREE"...

WE
MATAGI
HAVE A
SAYING,
"BECOME
ONE
WITH THE
TREES"...

HEARING
WHAT YOU
JUST SAID
MAKES ME
FEEL LIKE
I FINALLY
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
THAT
MEANS.



I WILL
FIND
THAT
GOLD...

...NO
MATTER
WHAT IT
TAKES.



BECOMING
ONE WITH
THE
TREES,
EH?

WOMEN
ARE
INDEED
FEAR-
FUL
CREA-
TURES.

I
HAVEN'T
SEEN MY
WIFE OR
MY 15
CHILDREN
IN
YEARS...

WAIT, A
DAUGHTER
?!

...



SO TANIGAKI,
TELL ME MORE
ABOUT THAT
"WOLF SENDING"
BEHAVIOR.



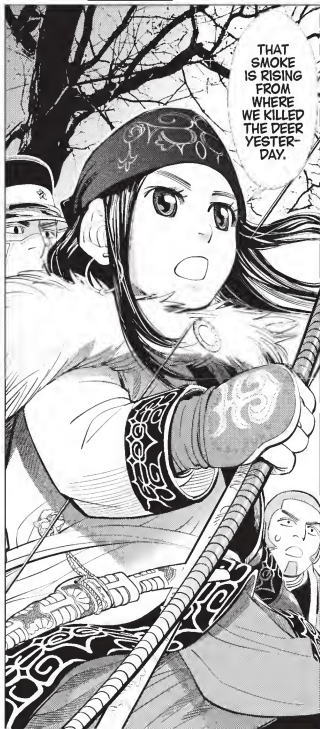


IT
WAS
HISTOR-
ICALLY
USED
TO MAKE
SMOKE
SIGNALS.

THE
FLAME
TEMPERATURE
IS VERY HIGH,
AND THE
SMOKE RISES
STRAIGHT
AND TALL
INTO THE
AIR WITHOUT
MUCH
SPREAD.

WOLF
FECES
CONTAIN
A HIGH
AMOUNT
OF NITRIC
ACID (AN
INGREDIENT
IN
GUNPOWDER).

THAT
SMOKE
IS RISING
FROM
WHERE
WE KILLED
THE DEER
YESTER-
DAY.





...DOWN ON
THE GROUND.

AFTER
CAREFUL
TIMING,
TANIGAKI
PLACES
HIS
MESS
KIT...



TANIGAKI
STOPS
WALKING,
TO KEEP
THE WOLF
FOLLOWING
US AT A
DISTANCE.

I WAIT UNTIL
I'M OUT OF
TANIGAKI'S SIGHT
BEFORE QUICKLY
CLIMBING UP THE
SLOPE ON THE
SIDE OF THE
TRAIL.





...ITS
AWARENESS
OF WHAT
IS ABOVE
SHOULD BE
DULL.



LIKE A DOG,
IF A WOLF IS
BUSY SNIFFING
WITH ITS
NOSE TO THE
GROUND...

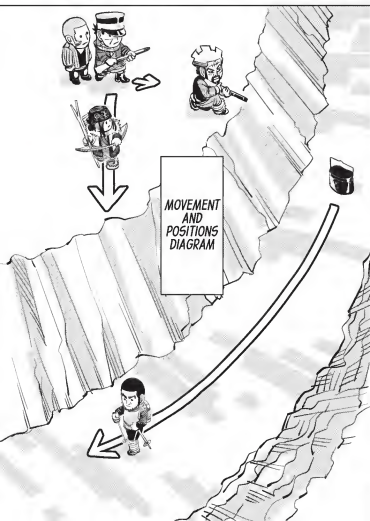
AND
BECOME
ONE
WITH THE
TREES...

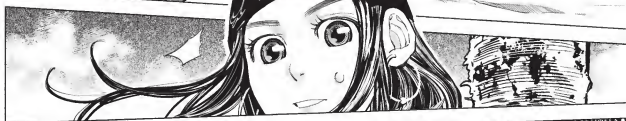
I MUST
SUBDUCE MY
OVER-
WHELMING
URGE TO
KILL...

SPEAKING
OF DOGS,
WHERE DID
THAT MUTT
OF MINE
GO?

WELL,
SINCE HE'S
NOT HERE,
IT'S EASIER
FOR ME
TO STAY
HIDDEN.







DID HE
SENSE MY
KILLING
SCENT?

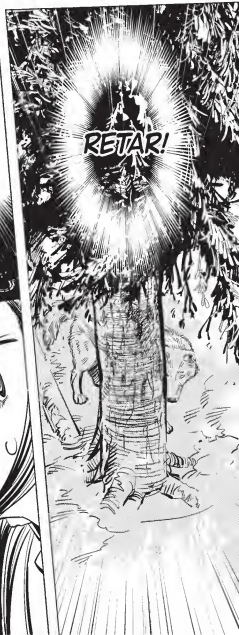
I MUST
CONTROL
MYSELF!

ONE WITH
THE TREES...
ONE WITH
THE TREES...
HNNGHR...

HARD-
ON!!



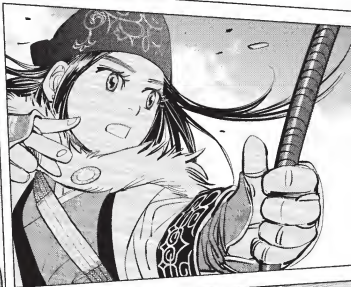
DON'T
COME
OUT!







BA  **ANG**

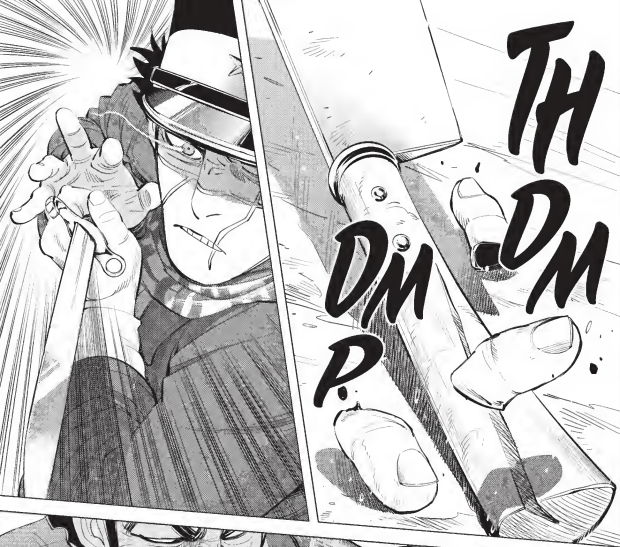














I HOPE
YOU'RE
READY TO
END UP AS
ANIMAL
SHIT!



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BONUS





ZZZ

GASP

HFF
HFF

JUST A
DREAM...

SPECIAL THANKS:
MANAGING EDITOR
HAKKOU OKUMA



GOLDEN KAMUY

Volume 3 VIZ Signature Edition

Story/Art by Satoru Noda

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